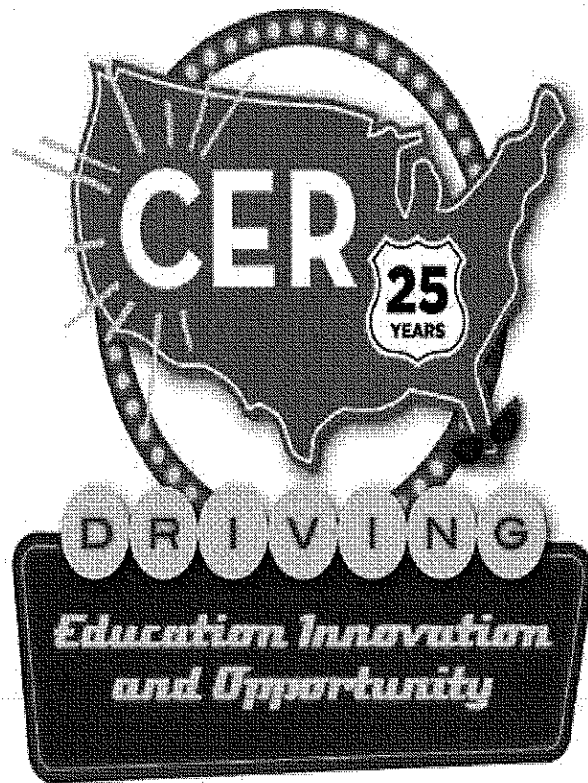


The really good news however is that teachers love the autonomy and focus that charters allow them to teach and innovate without being bound by union rules that only hamstring those efforts. That's why well over 90% of charter schools remain non-union and, as a result, retain the freedoms and flexibilities entailed in that independence. As such, charter schools continue to outperform traditional public schools at a rate that has helped drive advances in learning and pedagogy. Charter schools change lives, thanks to the teachers in them. And, today, on Teacher Appreciation day as well as Day 3 of [#CharterSchoolsWeek](#), that's worth celebrating!



Founded in 1993, the Center for Education Reform aims to expand educational opportunities that lead to improved economic outcomes for all Americans — particularly our youth — ensuring that conditions are ripe for innovation, freedom and flexibility throughout U.S. education.

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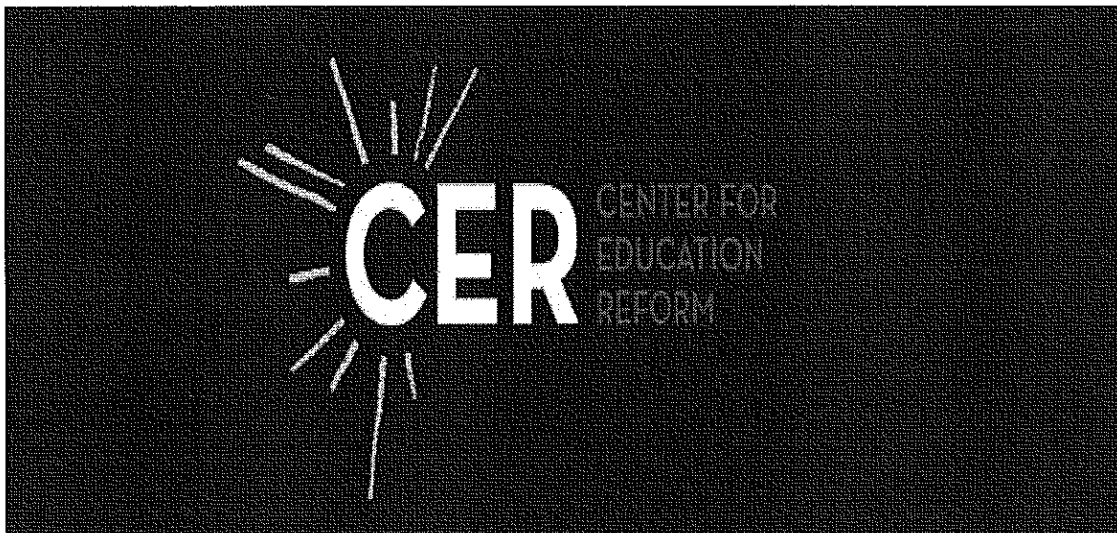


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A weekly report on education news and commentary you won't find anywhere else — from the nation's leading voice on education innovation and opportunity.

REFLECTIONS. Last week America celebrated National Charter Schools Week. In the 27 years since the founding of the charter school movement, tremendous progress has been made in the number of schools established, and in the wealth of innovative opportunities they offer to children, families, teachers and communities.

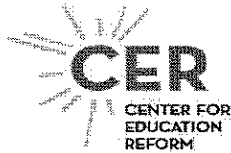
Each day of NCSW, schools, educators, advocates and thought leaders produced a combo of thousands of stories, data points and reflections about the role charters have played in transforming how public education works. Parents, policy advocates, legislators – and some of brightest minds in the

areas of education technology, pedagogy, curriculum, teaching and learning have helped create a vibrant environment for student success among more than 3 million students who annually benefit from charter school education. As we reported last week however, despite that success, the reality is charters are "Opportunities Under Siege." We took an unflinching look at the forces and foes that could jeopardize all the hard-fought victories and advancement of the innovation and opportunity that 7,000 charter schools have delivered.

Check out this dedicated web resource site, daily releases, Op-Eds, media engagement, social media, videos and Reality Check with Jeanne Allen podcasts with pioneers and advocates such as Success Academy founder Eva Moskowitz, charter innovator, scholar and author, Sarah Tantillo and respected pioneer who participated in the birth of the modern Charter School Movement, Howard Fuller. We explored the drivers of change, diversity and world-class education and those who strive to un-do this vital work. Our goals for this week were to galvanize charter school educators and administrators against teachers' union pressures for strikes and walkouts, dispel false claims to set the record straight in the media, reenergize parents and students, and bring urgency to legislators to pass strong charter laws and fund the ones already passed.

LOOMING STORM CLOUDS IN NORTH CAROLINA gather as union-backed strikes are scheduled for Wednesday May 16th in Raleigh with attendance expected to be high. This is another in a wave of coordinated efforts to engage charter school teachers to abandon their classrooms and their students under the façade of solidarity to suit their own agenda, optics and ultimately their coffers. This is the fifth in a series of walk-outs and sick-outs being encouraged by the National Education Association (NEA). The first was in West Virginia and lasted nine days. Subsequently, the NEA encouraged teachers in Oklahoma to walk, even though they won a 16 percent raise from the Oklahoma legislature before the nine-day walk-outs even began. Then there was Kentucky, followed by Arizona where new money for schools was already on the table prior to that walk-out as well.

A WORD TO ALL CHARTER EDUCATORS: While we appreciate that teachers are naturally collaborators, this national walk-out strategy is designed to undermine the very freedoms that charter schools afford not only their families but all who work there. The NEA believes all charters should fall under the same rules as traditional public schools, which, in effect, would make them no different than traditional schools. They fight charter schools in school halls and state halls. They are calling it a walk-out because the public does not like strikes, and they have poll-tested the words. (***The NEA spends \$34 million a year on its communications.***) And they are calling it a walk-out because they don't have the authority to make anyone do anything in a right-to-work state. However, this is a strike, plain and simple. And by striking with the union, you are joining the fight to close charter schools.



FOLLOW-UP TO:
**THE CASE FOR
EDUCATION
TRANSFORMATION**
Part I: The Disappointing
Reality of American
Education
*First released -
February 2018*

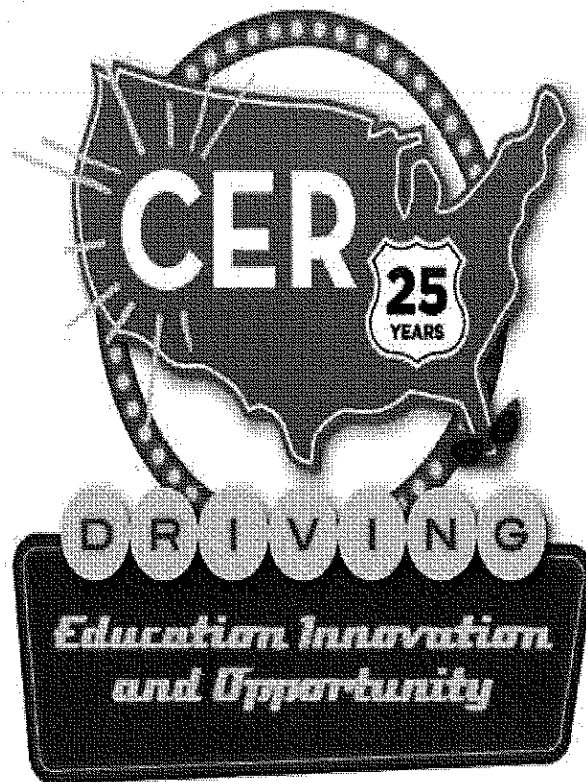
THE CASE FOR EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION

Part II. Opportunity

MAY 2018

THE CASE FOR EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION: CER released the second in a three-part series for The Case for Education Transformation - Opportunity. Following last month's release of Part I— The Disappointing Reality of American Education, which included 2018 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) alarming data revealing that the lowest performing students in the nation are faring worse than they did on the same assessment in 2015. Part II also assesses what a new opportunity agenda should look like and presents a strategic road map to achieve it.

CER SALUTES 20 YEARS OF EMPOWERING FAMILIES. The Children's Scholarship Fund is 20 years old, and celebrates this milestone tonight in NYC. If you are in New York City – COME! Tickets are available to join the celebration and special memories of visionary founders Ted Forstmann and John Walton. And at CSF's helm for the entire 20 years the organization has been supporting more than 166,000 students with scholarships is president and chief operating officer, Darla Romfo. We spoke with her on this week's Reality Check with Jeanne Allen. Hear why even with today's availability of greater educational choices, Darla says CFS's work is more important than ever, "It's still the right thing to do – to keep trying to make a difference," she urges, "You can never give up."



Founded in 1993, the Center for Education Reform aims to expand educational opportunities that lead to improved economic outcomes for all Americans –

particularly our youth — ensuring that conditions are ripe for innovation, freedom and flexibility throughout U.S. education.

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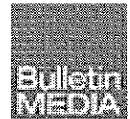
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The Aerospace States Association BRIEFING

In affiliation with



Good morning Thomas Patton

May 17, 2018

POLICY NEWS - STATE

Efforts To Explore Lambert International Airport Privatization Hit A Snag.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (5/16) reports that efforts to explore the privatization of St. Louis' Lambert International Airport hit a snag when the city's Board of Estimate and Appointment did not hold a scheduled vote to approve the contract of three consulting firms selected by a committee in January to "seek and evaluate proposals from companies that want to lease the airport." According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the reason for the contract not being approved was "a disagreement over a proposed group that would work alongside the consulting firms and make recommendations."

Richfield, UT Airport Nears Completion.

The Richfield (UT) Reaper (5/16) reports that after more than a decade of work, the Richfield City Municipal Airport project is "in its final weeks." The article says that "thanks to an ongoing grant from the Federal Aviation Administration," the airport rebuild is almost complete. The FAA paid for "more than 90 percent" of the project.

Sheridan County, WY Approves \$575,000 Airport Funds Transfer.

Sheridan (WY) Media (5/16, Palmer) reports that Sheridan County, Wyoming Commissioners authorized a transfer of \$575,000 in FAA entitlement funds to the Yellowstone Regional Airport in Cody, WY. Sheridan County Airport Manager John Stopka said the Cody airport board approved an agreement in which the commissioners would lend the funds to the airport.

Florida County Plans Mosquito Control Program Using UAVs.

U.S. News & World Report (5/16, Soergel) reports that officials in Lee County, Florida plan to use UAVs to aid the county's mosquito control operations. Lee County is one of "only 10 state, local and tribal government entities to be selected for the Federal Aviation Administration's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program." According to Lee County Mosquito Control District Public Information Officer Eric Jackson, the county has been "getting a lot of media requests" and has been "inundated with drone operators that want jobs." Jackson added that the district "relies heavily on aerial operations" to control mosquito populations.

POLICY NEWS - FEDERAL

WTO Ruling "Adds To" Tension Between Airbus, Boeing.

Bloomberg News (5/16) reports in a video that The Boeing Company has won a World Trade Organization (WTO) case against Airbus and the European Union. The decision "Cadds to the tension between two parties already at odds" due to the Trump administration's decision to withdraw from the Iranian nuclear deal, jeopardizing aircraft orders worth billions of dollars.

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AVIATION

FAA Orders Faster Inspection Of Boeing 737 Engines.

USA Today (5/16, Jansen) reports that the FAA ordered faster inspections of Boeing 737 aircraft engines Wednesday in order to "ensure that the oldest fan blades in about 5,400 engines are inspected by June 30." In a statement, the FAA said that it is "acting to ensure an extra measure of safety for fan blade performance in CFM56 engines." This follows a fatal accident aboard an April Southwest Airlines flight linked to one of the engines. The FAA order conforms to a CFM International directive published last week calling for airlines to "hasten inspections for engines with more than 20,000 flights." In a statement, GE Aviation said that more than 77,000 engine fan blades have been inspected following the incident. Each engine has 24 blades, meaning that "about 3,200 engines or more than 1,600

planes have been inspected." The FAA has estimated that around 3,716 engines needed to be inspected on US aircraft, but globally "330,000 blades on 13,750 planes will be inspected, according to the manufacturer." The inspections are estimated to cost US airlines a total of \$631,720.

Bloomberg News (5/16, Levin, Clough, Schlangstein) reports that the FAA's new directive to CFM56-7B engine operators was "based on findings in the investigation and a review by the manufacturer, according to a notice set to be published in the Federal Register Thursday." While Southwest has completed its inspection on affected engines in its fleet, the carrier sent "several dozen" blades, including "some with coating anomalies, to GE for additional testing."

Southwest Completes Engine Fan Blade Inspection. Bloomberg News reports that Southwest has sent some of its engine fan blades to CFM International for additional inspection, although the "carrier's own review found no faults like the one that caused a blade to crack in flight, leading to a passenger's death last month." At the airline's 25th annual meeting Wednesday, Southwest CEO Gary Kelly announced the carrier's "findings have been zero, which is obviously good news." After the meeting, Kelly told reporters that the company has sent "several dozen" blades to GE for additional testing, adding that he does not expect GE to find additional problems. GE's "inspection protocol will identify a crack before it gets to the failure stage," Kelly explained. Southwest uses ultrasonic tests to detect cracks, but GE also can conduct electromagnetic inspections. According to GE COO Mike Van de Ven, some of the blades sent back had coating anomalies, and were flagged for additional review "out of an abundance of caution."

US Marine Corps' First CH-53K King Stallion Delivered.

CNBC (5/16, Macias) reports that the US Marine Corps received the "most powerful helicopter ever fielded" by the service at Marine Corps Air Station New River in Jacksonville, North Carolina on Wednesday. The King Stallion eventually will replace the Marines' "nearly 40-year-old CH-53E Super Stallion fleet," and can carry triple the "weight of its predecessor at a colossal 27,000 pounds." The delivery was the first of an expected 200 aircraft from Lockheed Martin's Sikorsky unit. According to Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Aviation Lt. Gen. Steven Rudder, the Marines will test the helicopter in preparation for declaring it ready for deployment by the end of next year.

Boeing 747s Rebound With Increase In Air Cargo Demand.

Bloomberg Business (5/16) reports that interest in Boeing 747s is rebounding, particularly in "used 747s originally built as freighters, since they have hinged noses that flip open to load oversize cargo such as oil-drilling equipment." Customers also are beginning to express interest in "cargo-haulers converted from passenger jumbos, which are heavier and can load only via doors carved into the side." UPS has "negotiated a freighter order that will keep Boeing's 747-8 assembly line open into the next decade." In addition, Atlas Air has "started lining up 747-400 freighters for customers such as DHL Worldwide Express." Air cargo demand is expected to increase from four percent to five percent this year, which "bodes well for all-new Boeing freighters, as well as for the used models."

Airbus Helicopters Cites "Success" Of Corporate Helicopter Division.

FlightGlobal (5/16, Perry) reports that Airbus Helicopters believes that its decision to launch a "dedicated business aviation operation...has already begun paying dividends." Airbus Commercial Aircraft first made a similar change, prompting Airbus Corporate Helicopters (ACH) to be unveiled in May 2017. According to Airbus Helicopters CEO Frederic Lemos, "One year after the launch of Airbus Corporate Helicopters we can say it was a success." Lemos

added that the new division is "grabbing market share from the competition, particularly in the light-twin segment." In 2017, ACH "had a claimed 70% share of the market for corporate or VIP-roled turbine helicopters over 1.3t maximum take-off weight." Lemos called 2018 a "very important year" due to the ACH160, which he called a "game-changer in the small medium category."

Britain Expects F-35 Deliveries To Begin In June.

The Press Association (UK) (5/16) reports that Britain expects its first F-35 fighters to arrive in the United Kingdom (UK) next month. British Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson "confirmed the imminent arrival" of the aircraft during an event commemorating the 75th anniversary of the World War II "Dambusters raid." Four of the aircraft are due to be delivered from the US next month, and "will do so with between 12 and 15 air-to-air refuelling serials per jet." The aircraft will be delivered two months ahead of schedule, allowing for additional training "before declaring initial operational service" for the fighters later this year.

Flybe Calls Bombardier Q400 "Best Core Aircraft" For Its Fleet.

Reuters (5/16) reports that Flybe has concluded that Bombardier's Q400 turboprop is the best core aircraft for its current and future fleet needs, and is likely to remain the bulk of Flybe's fleet for the foreseeable future. Flybe is in the process of reducing its fleet from 85 aircraft as of May 2017 to a target of 70 aircraft by 2020, and has handed back all nine Embraer 195 jets operated by the carrier. An additional order for four Embraer E175s will be delivered in 2019, but Flybe does not anticipate any additional aircraft orders in the near future.

Southwest Seeks Overseas Expansion.

CNBC (5/16, Josephs) reports that Southwest Airlines is looking to service additional destinations outside the US, including destinations in South America. According to Southwest CEO Gary Kelly, 96 percent of the carrier's flights are domestic, and Southwest serves 14 international destinations. Kelly said there are as many as 50 other destinations in North and South America that Southwest could serve. He also said that these will not be added "all next year," and that the process "may take us 25 years." An expansion to South America could follow similar network growth to the region by competitors like Spirit and JetBlue, and possibly put it in competition with large U.S. airlines like Delta, United and American."

SPACE

OneSpace Successfully Launches First Private Chinese Rocket.

CNN Money (5/16, Toh, Wang) reports that Beijing-based startup OneSpace "on Thursday became the country's first private company to launch its own rocket." The startup's OS-X rocket successfully launched from a facility in northwestern China as part of a mission to "collect data for a research project it is working on with the Aviation Industry Corporation of China, a state-owned company." Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Professor of Aerospace Engineering Xin Zhang doubts that the rocket was entirely developed by OneSpace. The company's CEO, Shu Chang, has stated that the rocket was developed and built in only three years, but according to Zhang, "that's supersonic speed." Zhang added that with OneSpace having raised only \$78 million, such a feat would have

been “difficult unless they cut corners.” OneSpace has claimed it “lowered costs in part by using a specially designed electrical system that weighs 10 times less than those typically used in other rockets.”

ISS Astronauts Service Coolant Pumps “Leaky” And “Frosty.”

The AP (5/16, Dunn) reports that NASA astronauts Drew Feustel and Ricky Arnold “swapped the positions of two spare ammonia pumps” that are part of the “critical cooling system” for the ISS. One pump “got too cold because of a power shutdown 17 years ago and is called Frosty,” and NASA flight controllers plan to perform tests in the coming days to assess whether the pump still works. The other pump, a “failed unit dubbed Leaky, spewed out ammonia five years ago.” Leaky was moved to a long-term storage platform, while Frosty “took Leaky’s spot on a robot-arm mechanism.” A new spare pump was delivered to the ISS last month. During the spacewalk, NASA Flight Controller Alex Apyan explained that the agency has “been doing a ton of work to play musical chairs with all these (pumps) so we can have good available spares.” Feustel and Arnold also installed a “new camera and communication device,” and completed additional tasks.

CBS News (5/16, Harwood) reports that the units are designed to pump coolant “through solar array batteries to keep them from overheating.” Because the ISS uses eight of the units to cool its solar array batteries, NASA “wants two operational spares available at all times and engineers want to find out whether Frosty is, in fact, operational.”

SpaceX Sets Targets For Next Falcon 9 Launches.

Spaceflight Now (5/16, Clark) reports that SpaceX has delayed the launch of five Iridium “message relay satellites and a pair of U.S.-German orbiting geophysics probes” on a Falcon 9 rocket from California three days to May 22, while a “week-long schedule slip to May 31 is expected for the next SpaceX flight from Cape Canaveral with an SES communications payload.” According to Iridium CEO Matt Desch, the delay for the launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base will allow SpaceX to resolve an issue with the Falcon 9’s preparation. Desch called the problem a “minor processing issue” with a Falcon 9 component, adding that it is “not a big deal.”

UK Considering Veto Of ESA’s New Galileo Contract Tenders.

Bloomberg News (5/16, Morales) reports that the United Kingdom (UK) is considering vetoing the “release of new contract tenders for the European Union’s [EU] Galileo satellite navigation system” if the EU does not relax its stance on “restricting Britain’s access to the program after Brexit, two officials familiar with the matter said.” ESA officials want to bring forward bids for \$471 million in contracts to “design and develop the next set of satellites for the program.” The tenders were officially planned for next year, but a vote on issuing them could be held “as soon as a European Space Agency meeting in mid-June, but the decision needs to be unanimous, giving the UK a veto.” Britain wishes to remain in the project after its exit from the EU, and believes that access to Galileo “would be a test of how good the future security relationship could be.”

Virginia-Based Aireon To Offer Satellite-Based Commercial Air Traffic Control Services In 2019.

Bloomberg News (5/16) reports that McLean, Virginia-based Aireon is developing a satellite-based tracking system and is planning to offer commercial air traffic control services in 2019. Aireon’s technology will allow for “better-

optimized flight paths, saving fuel and time while reducing separation between aircraft," which would enable more flights "in crowded areas such as the North Atlantic." UK-based NATS, which provides Britain's air traffic control service, is buying a 10 percent stake in Aireon. Aireon CEO Don Thoma said in a news conference on Wednesday that the FAA will start testing Aireon systems later this year.

Shotwell Explains "What It's Like Working For Elon Musk."

CNBC (5/16) profiles the working relationship between SpaceX President and Chief Operating Officer Gwynne Shotwell and CEO Elon Musk. Shotwell joined SpaceX as an engineer in 2002, and was the company's seventh employee. Shotwell said, "I love working for Elon." She added that she has "been doing it for 16 years this year, actually." Shotwell sees her job as taking Musk's grand "ideas and kind of turn them into company goals, make them achievable," pushing SpaceX toward a comfortable space. Shotwell added that Musk, in contrast, seeks to "push again and put us back on that slope."

NASA Cubesats Transmit Their First Image Of Earth, Moon.

SPACE (5/16) reports that one of NASA's Mars Cube One (MarCO) cubesats, "launched toward the Red Planet along with the agency's InSight lander on May 5, took a photo on May 9 to help confirm that its high-gain antenna had deployed properly." The antenna can be seen in the photo, as can the moon and Earth, the "latter of which appears as a pale blue dot, just as it did in a famous photo taken by NASA's Voyager 1 probe in 1990." In a statement, MarCO Chief Engineer Andy Klesh of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) called the image "our homage to Voyager," adding that cubesats have "never gone this far into space before, so it's a big milestone. Both our cubesats are healthy and functioning properly. We're looking forward to seeing them travel even farther." The cubesats will conduct a "demonstration mission" to show the spacecraft's utility on deep-space exploration missions, and also will test technologies "including a propulsion system that uses the same cold, compressed gas commonly found in fire extinguishers."

USA Today (5/16) includes video in its coverage.

MANUFACTURING

FACC Expects Automation, Outsourcing To Improve Earnings.

Reuters (5/16, Knolle) reports that Austrian aviation parts supplier FACC said Wednesday that it expects to improve its earnings significantly this year by expanding automation and by outsourcing the production of some of its parts. The Chinese-owned company doubled net profit to \$447 million in the year ending this past February. In its annual report, FACC stated that "initiatives to increase the level of automation and productivity and to outsource the production of simple composite parts to the supply chain will continue (in 2018/19)." FACC is targeting single-digit percentage sales growth for the year, and expects to supply parts for an expanded short-haul aircraft market. The company also is working "on developing surfaces able to adjust to changing conditions, such as pressure and suction in different phases of a flight, to meet future needs."

STEM EDUCATION

NEA Chairman And Smithsonian Secretary Argue For Integrated Education.

David Skorton, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and Jane Chu, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, write in USA Today (5/16), on "the future of work," arguing that there has been much attention paid to STEM fields, and "less emphasis on the intrinsic value of the arts and humanities." They argue, quoting Einstein, that "arts, sciences and humanities are all 'branches from the same tree,'" and support "broad educational experiences that integrate the STEM disciplines with the arts and humanities." They site a study from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine that "offers compelling evidence that integration has a positive impact on the learning outcomes of students."

WEDNESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **DHS Secretary Calls For Increased Authority Over UAVs.**
- **WTO Finds Airbus Subsidies Harmed Boeing Sales.**
- **Launch From Kodiak's Pacific Spaceport Complex Canceled.**
- **NAFTA Negotiations "Inch Ahead."**
- **North County Math Superbowl Held.**

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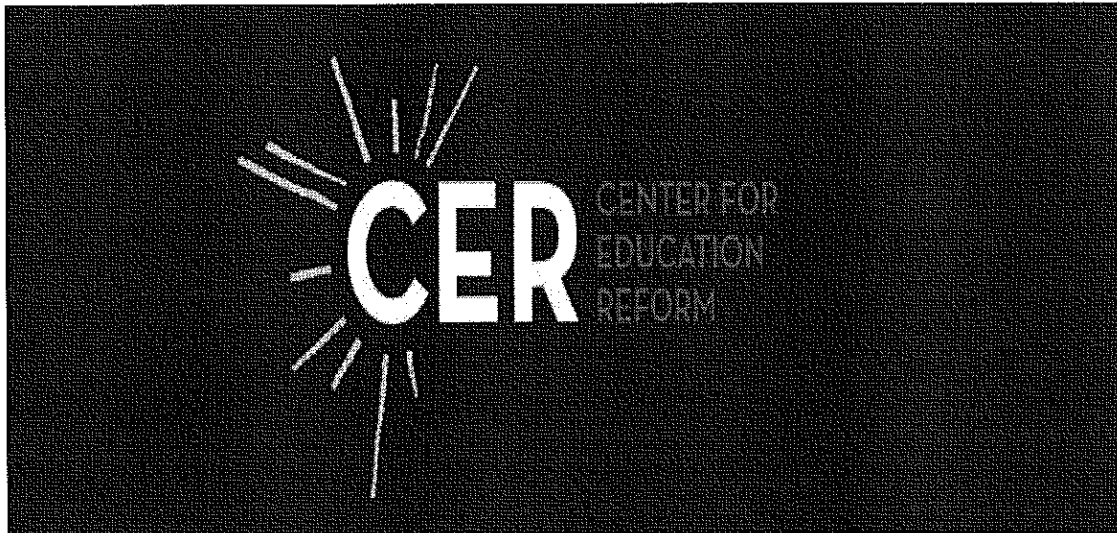
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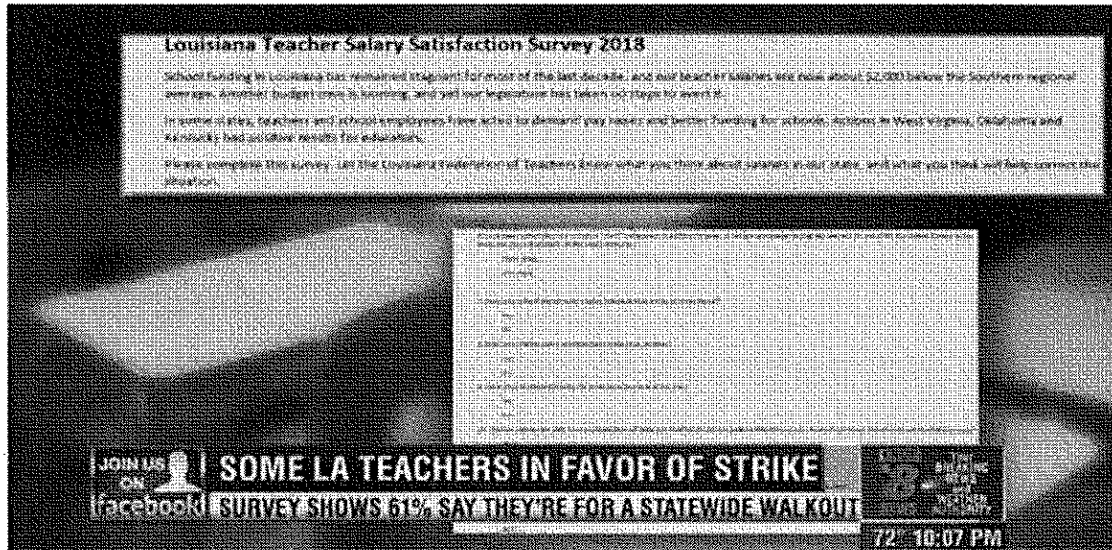
PRIMARY DAY. It's a great reminder of what's at stake, and a time for all to exercise their right to vote, not to mention their responsibility to know what it is they are voting for. A little [civics knowledge](#) courtesy of the Bill of Rights foundation might help you or your class, now and in the future to understand what it is we can all achieve if we focus on the issues. Let's start (and end) with education, a core function of any Governor. Today Texas, Georgia and Arkansas will nominate candidates for Governor to elect in November. In all, 36 states and 3 territories will elect state execs this year. Get to know what you should be asking and thinking now. CER's handy-dandy voter's

guide Education 50 is chock full of information to guide you and will be an up-to-date analysis of all major state races for November's final contests.

MORE UNION DISSENT. This time in South Carolina. Dubbed a "mobilization", the rally at least took place on a Saturday when the livelihood of the children was not at stake. Want more money and benefits? Teachers should get up to speed on what's really preventing that from happening. (Hint: It's not education reform).

BAIT & SWITCH. The media have been hoodwinked clearly by catchy surveys conducted by the Louisiana Federation of Teachers claiming a majority of teachers support their strikes and demonstrations. Take a look at this loaded question they used to stir the pot. Again, teachers should ask themselves, what has the union done lately to ensure that school spending reaches the classroom, to reduce their dues, to reduce pension costs, ensure that salaries not be topped off at the end of a teacher's career, and that greatness is rewarded, while mediocrity is not? The reality is that most teachers don't know how they are paid, or why.

New survey shows nearly 4,000 Louisiana teachers would strike, quit for higher pay



WHEN THEY CAN'T WIN THEY SUE. Repeated lawsuits initiated by the unions against the tiny Washington State charter school law are going to prevent more students like Jalen Johnson, an 11th-grader at Summit Sierra charter school in Seattle, from succeeding. Johnson told the crowd at a pro-charter rally that the commitment of his teachers helped turn him from an average middle-school student who had little thought of attending college to a thriving high-school junior who hopes to study urban planning at the University of California at Berkeley. "This is how every school should be." That's the same theme in Georgia in a news report about charter school graduates. "Public school choice, in the form of successful, innovative public charter schools, helps struggling children thrive and graduate."

SPEAKING OF GRADUATES, Michigan's charter schools are forcing some who have long used flawed data to condemn Detroit charters to eat their words. Turns out that with struggle comes progress (as one of our friends would say). A dollar spent by a Detroit charter yields 2.5x lifetime earnings, according new a new report by the Mackinac Center. Indeed 8 of the 10 top high schools in Detroit for college enrollment were charter schools. Despite the

good news, the Gubernatorial Democratic frontrunner in Michigan announced earlier this month his "war on charter schools." Shri Thanedar is campaigning on a plan to ban most Michigan charter schools. His competitor Gretchen Whitmer is following his lead.

ILLINOIS CHOICES UNDER ATTACK, TOO. Political efforts motivated by stiff teacher union pressure threaten the elimination of the successful Invest in Kids Act program, despite its popularity and necessity. Empower Illinois received 24,000 applications as soon as its scholarship program went live, causing its website to crash, and is up to 50,000. The state tax credit program is decried by the teachers' union because it's a policy that supports educational alternatives. So as the unions work to pull teachers out of school they are also trying to stop kids from going to schools that meet their needs. Go figure.

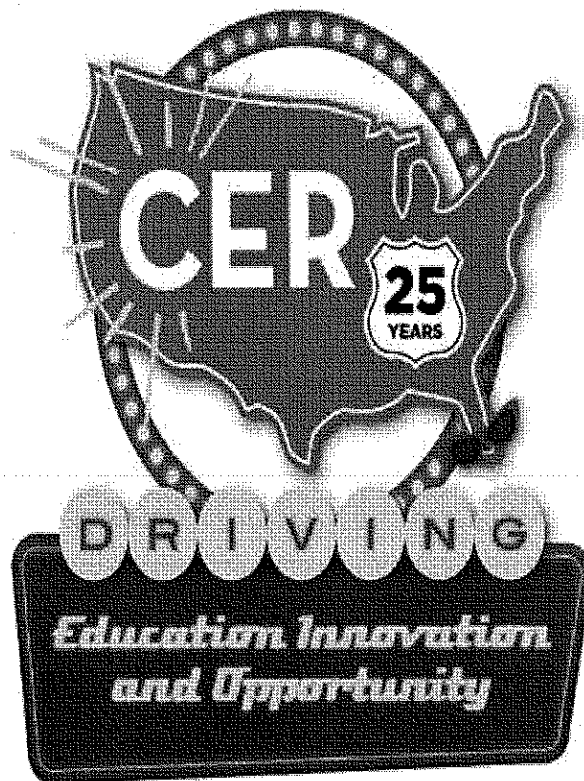
FLORIDA DISTRICTS FIGHT equality for kids while they deny charter public schools their equal right to property tax money.

DESPITE FAILURE & SAFETY ISSUES, the head of the National Education Association (NEA) is galloping into Kentucky to the fight proposed state takeover of Jefferson County Public Schools.

LET US PRAY. THE MUCH-ANTICIPATED SCOTUS *JANUS v.*

AFSCME RULING in late June could mean a seismic shift for teachers' unions. With the strong possibility of a ruling Mark Janus' favor, releasing non-union teachers from mandatory fees, the nation's largest teachers' union, the National Teachers Association (NEA) has announced a projected loss of 300,000 members over two years and accordingly, a proposed annual budget reduction of \$50 million. For more details and analysis on the case and how its outcome will affect all educators and students, listen to this Monday's Reality Check with Jeanne Allen with guest Colin Sharkey, executive vice president of the Association of American Educators.

Check out this week's [Reality Check w/Jeanne Allen for an interview with North Carolina charter school leaders about the strikes and their prescription for success.](#)



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**OHIO CELEBRATES, WORKS, AND
NEVER RESTS ON OUR LAURELS**



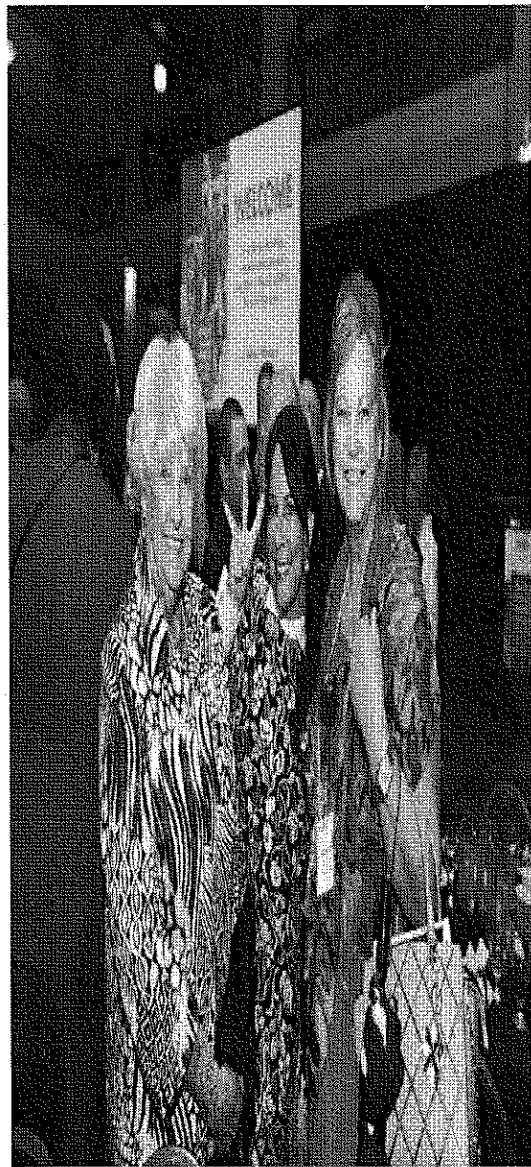
2018 Governor's Award for Community Development and Participation winner Sierra Leone and Ohio Arts Council Executive Director Donna S. Collins.

In this month's Message from the Executive Director, Donna S. Collins discusses the 2018 Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio, the National Endowment for the Arts, and more agency updates.

READ DONNA'S MESSAGE

**THANK YOU FOR A FANTASTIC
GOVERNOR'S AWARDS CELEBRATION!**





Congratulations to the nine winners who were honored for their contributions to the arts in Ohio at the annual Arts Day & Governor's Awards luncheon and awards ceremony on May 16 at the Columbus Athenaeum!

[WATCH THE FULL PROGRAM HERE](#)



The OAC received \$995,800 to help support arts initiatives throughout the state.

A black and white photograph of a large group of students posing in front of a large, dark, textured building, likely a school. A large, ornate chandelier hangs from the ceiling above them.

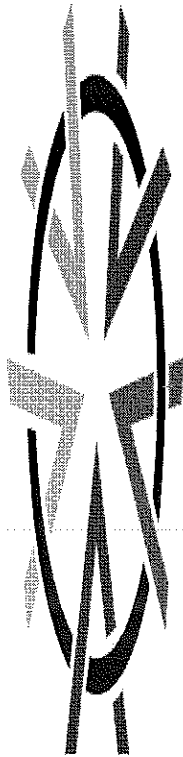
As part of a TeachArtsOhio teaching artist residency, the Midview High School songwriting class has been working with Cleveland songwriter Brent Kirby to produce "Living in the Moment," a CD featuring six songs written entirely by the students.

READ MORE

OHIO ARTISTS RECEIVE INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Board members of the Ohio Arts Council approved Individual Excellence Awards for state fiscal year 2018 during a public meeting on April 25. The awards recognize creative artists for the exceptional merit of a body of their work that advances or exemplifies the discipline and the larger artistic community.

[READ MORE](#)



Ohio Arts
COUNCIL A STATE AGENCY SUPPORTING
ARTS AND CULTURE

**WATCH: HIGH SCHOOL ARTISTS DISCUSS WORK
FEATURED IN OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EXHIBITION**



WATCH THE VIDEO



KENNEDY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL HONORS TUSKEGEE AIRMAN THROUGH ARTWORK

This summer, a monument commemorating Lt. John H. Leahr, a member of the Tuskegee Airmen from Kennedy Heights, Ohio, will be unveiled outside of the Kennedy Heights Arts Center.

[READ MORE](#)



MEET KATHY SIGNORINO, ARTIST PROGRAMS/PERCENT FOR ART COORDINATOR

A lover of spreadsheets, fine arts, and cats, you can find Kathy Signorino at her desk in the Ohio Arts Council's Individual Artist office or traveling around the state for the Ohio Percent for Art program. Learn more about Kathy in this month's Meet the Staff Q&A.

[READ MORE](#)



Art & Accessibility Tip #9: What to know when writing about disability

When writing about people with disabilities, do you ever wonder if you're saying the "right thing"? The [National Center on Disability and Journalism](#) has a [Disability Language Style Guide](#) to assist you in writing. And remember: When in doubt, put the person first.

For more accessibility ideas from local, regional, or national websites, contact Kim Turner, the accessibility coordinator at the Ohio Arts Council, at kim.turner@oac.ohio.gov.

The Ohio Arts Council believes that everyone has the right of equal access to the arts. Each month, the ArtsOhio newsletter includes an accessibility tip for arts organizations. For additional accessibility resources, visit oac.ohio.gov/About/About-the-Council/Accessibility.

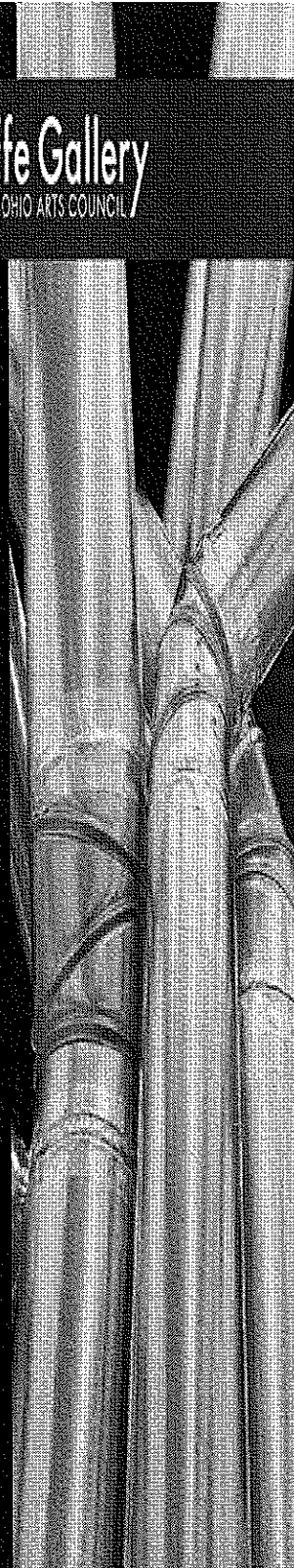
ON VIEW

 Riffe Gallery
OHIO ARTS COUNCIL

WOMEN TO WATCH OHIO - 2018

A collaboration with the Ohio Advisory Group of the
National Museum of Women in the Arts

MAY 3 - JULY 7, 2018



WOMEN TO WATCH OHIO - 2018

May 3 - July 7, 2018

Women to Watch Ohio – 2018 showcases the work of 10 Ohio women working with metal through sculpture, installation, jewelry, and two-dimensional works. The exhibition is developed in collaboration with the Ohio Advisory Group of the National Museum of Women in the Arts and is curated by Ann Bremner and Matt Distel. This is the second *Women to Watch Ohio* exhibition initiated by the Ohio Advisory Group and the first to encompass mid-Ohio as well as the northeast and southwest regions of the state.

[READ MORE](#)

COMING SOON

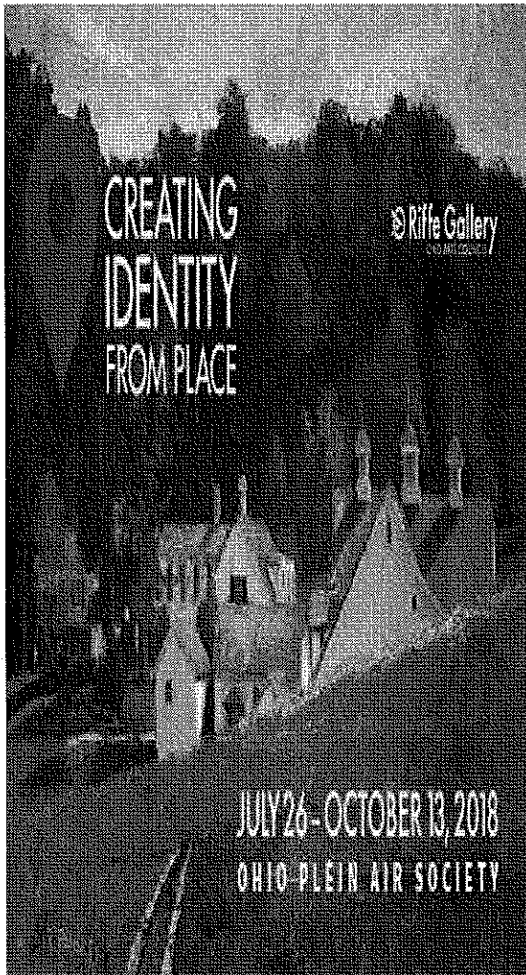
**LOBBY EXHIBITION:
ACCESSIBLE
EXPRESSIONS OHIO, VSA
OHIO**

June 13 - July 11, 2018

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[READ MORE](#)





CREATING IDENTITY FROM PLACE

July 26 - October 13, 2018

Creating Identity from Place: Ohio Plein Air Society is an exhibition of 73 paintings and drawings created from direct observation in nature. Curated by Artistic Director Charlotte Gordon, Southern Ohio Museum, this exhibition of Midwestern landscapes is a reflection on the everyday beauty of Ohio.

[READ MORE](#)

FOR ORGANIZATIONS | Grants & Opportunities

JUNE 1: Capacity Building, Building Cultural Diversity, and Artists with Disabilities Access Program (ADAP) Grant Applications Due

The Capacity Building program supports organizations' efforts to improve business practices or add new knowledge and skills that forward organizations' missions. Awards may fund technical assistance projects, planning or evaluation work, staff professional development opportunities, or other initiatives that upgrade an organization's ability to do what they do.

[READ MORE](#)

The Building Cultural Diversity program supports new and emerging organizations whose mission, programs, staff, and board represent culturally diverse communities. Awards support arts programming and projects that celebrate communities' unique arts and culture or preserve a culturally significant artistic tradition or practice.

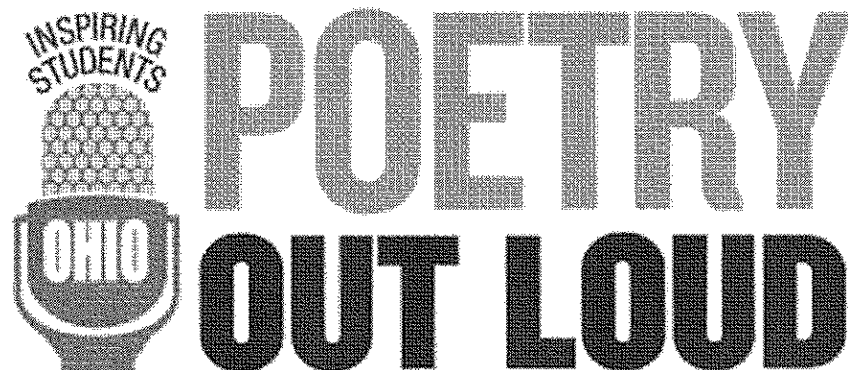
[READ MORE](#)

ADAP provides funding that gives individual artists with disabilities—and organizations that serve them—the resources they need to further their artistic development. ADAP awards help artists with disabilities advance their artistic practices, making Ohio a more accessible and inclusive place to build an artistic career.

[READ MORE](#)

CONTACT: [Brianna Dance](#) and [Jim Szekacs](#), Organizational Programs Coordinators

FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS | *Poetry Out Loud*



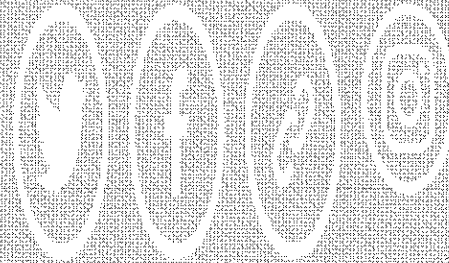
Poetry Out Loud Registration is Now Open

Ohio *Poetry Out Loud* registration is open for the 2018-19 competition! *Poetry Out Loud* encourages students to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation.

REGISTER TODAY

CONTACT: Chiquita Mullins Lee, Arts Learning Coordinator

Image credits: 1) 2018 Governor's Award for Community Development and Participation winner Sierra Leone and Ohio Arts Council Executive Director Donna S. Collins, photo by Terry Gilliam; 2) 2018 Governor's Awards winners, (left) Crystal Michelle, Ro Nita Hawes-Saunders, Amy Held, Ricardo Averbach, Sierra Leone, Scott McComb, Marsha Dobrzynski, Howard Parr, Mimi Rose, Stuart Rose, David Mitzel, photos by Terry Gilliam; 3) National Endowment for the Arts logo; 4) "Living in the Moment" album cover, photo courtesy of Justin Caithaml, Midview Local Schools; 5) Ohio Arts Council logo; 6) Ohio House of Representatives Student Art Exhibition video screenshot; 7) Lt. John Lehr memorial concept sketch, photo courtesy of Jarrett Hawkins; 8) Meet the Staff graphic; 9) Art and Accessibility graphic; 10) Women to Watch Ohio - 2018 post card, image credit: Carol Boram-Hays, WHOOSH (detail), 2017, steel, duct tape, 114" x 80" x 48"; 11) Kerri Applin, Grandpa's Flapjacks, air dry clay, acrylic paint; 12) Robin Roberts, An Evening at Malabar Farm, 2016, Oil on canvas, 15 1/2" x 19 1/2"; 13) Ohio Poetry Out Loud logo



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You are receiving the monthly ArtsOhio newsletter because you signed up on the Ohio Arts Council website, through social media, or in-person at the Ohio Arts Council's Riffe Gallery.

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30 East Broad Street, 33rd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-3414

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From: Nuclear Matters
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2018 7:17 AM
To: Rep07
Subject: June Newsletter: There's Power in Numbers

NUCLEAR MATTERS

Bill,

Teamwork makes the dream work.

For the past several months, it's become clear how fortunate we are to have nuclear energy advocates like you on our team, and we've seen some promising change in the industry.

You've proven that there's power in numbers, and with your continued efforts, we can help enable proactive, smart policy to ensure nuclear energy has a bright future. For the latest on how to get involved, stay tuned to your inbox for more updates like these and follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook for news and more info.

Thank you for being team players for nuclear energy. See why Nuclear Matters advocates are the real MVPs this month:

- **The 2018 Nuclear Energy Assembly (NEA) was a success**, bringing together hundreds of nuclear visionaries to discuss the future of the industry. Here are our top takeaways from the event.
- **You spoke. We listened.** Nuclear Matters advocates shared inspiring stories about the impact of nuclear energy on their lives. (PS If you have a story to tell, scroll down!) Take a look:
 - Young people are powering the industry, and they've got more than enough energy to do it.

- It's a family matter, and the closing of nuclear plants is personal.
- Our advocates go the distance for affordable, reliable energy.

Take Action

Your voice matters.

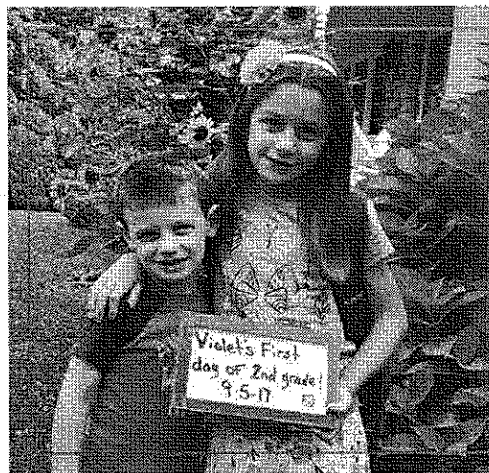
As a nuclear energy advocate, you have the power to affect real change in the industry.

We know that closing nuclear plants has devastating impacts to the communities they serve – and the entire country. If we're going to stop the attack on clean energy sources in Ohio and Pennsylvania, we need to make our voices heard. The first step is showing our elected officials that this is a real issue affecting real people.

Email us at info@nuclearmatters.com to submit a photo of you and your family along with your story about what nuclear means to you.

[Click here to email us your photo and story.](#)

Time is running out to save these plants – take action right now!



“

Nuclear certainly does matter to me and my family [...] Our families' lives and lungs rely on it, not to mention the value the industry provides to the local communities, schools and its employees.”

Jeremy Thoryll, Pennsylvania
Umerick Generating Station System Engineer

NUCLEAR MATTERS 5

In Case You Missed It

- Nuclear Matters welcomed Peter B. Lyons and Stan Wise to the Advocacy Council this month. These two advocates bring many years of diverse experience to the coalition, and we're proud to have their support.
- Advocacy Council Member Carol Browner, former EPA administrator, declared nuclear energy as a path forward for environmental advocates in a Morning Consult op-ed.

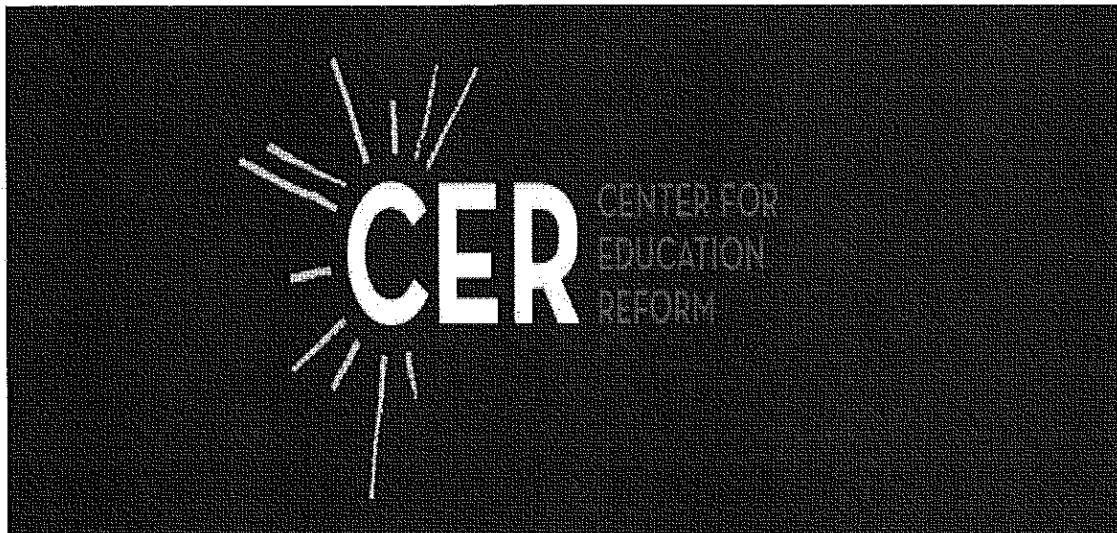
NUCLEAR MATTERS 



Nuclear Matters · NC, United States

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newswire@

A weekly report on education news and commentary you won't find anywhere else — from the nation's leading voice on education innovation and opportunity.

COUNTDOWN TO CER'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMIT... it may seem early, but October will be here before you know it, so make your plans now to join CER on October 25-26 in Miami for its Silver Anniversary Summit & Celebration *"The Road to Innovation for ONE America."* One of the features of the gathering will be our honoring of some of the pioneers of the education reform movement who will be on hand for the event, including Tommy Thompson. As Wisconsin's governor (from 1987-2001) Thompson was one of first high-profile champions of education reform pushing for the creation of the country's first parental school-choice program, which provided Milwaukee families with a voucher to send children to the private or public school of their

choice. He did other great things as governor, too (e.g. welfare reform), and went on to build a remarkable career of public service, including a stint as Secretary of Health and Human Services under George W. Bush, but he'll always be tops in our book for his commitment to, and success in, achieving substantive education reform.

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH... Last Sunday night NBC News aired a charter school story that argues charters are increasingly geared to support "white flight." If the claims weren't so outlandish and unfounded, it would be laughable. The producer, who was incredibly open to receiving information countering these allegations, based his report on an analysis performed by the Hechinger Report. In one of the documents CER supplied, we demonstrated Hechinger's bias against charter schools, as well as the folly of the argument. [Read more...](#)

A DOUBLE DOSE OF REALITY... This week Jeanne Allen interviewed [Erica Komisar](#), author of "Being There: Why Prioritizing Motherhood in the First Three Years Matters." Based on more than two decades of clinical work and breakthrough neurobiological research on caregiving, attachment and brain development, her book challenges established concepts (and myths) of infant resiliency, 'having it all' and even the definition of feminism. One thing this book is not about is quitting your job. "It's not about working vs. not working – it's really a book about more is more." Also on Reality Check, an attorney for Mark Janus from the [Liberty Justice Center](#) shares his thoughts on the likely outcome of the high court's pending decision.

Find the podcasts at edreform.com/realitycheck and on [National Review](#).

WHEN IT RAINS IT POURS... Just as the AFT and NEA are bracing for the ruling from SCOTUS in the Janus v. AFSCME case, [teachers in New York state have filed a class-action suit](#) claiming (correctly, we might add) that they are being illegally forced to cough up union dues even if they're not union members. This is in response to NY's new law, signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo

last April, mandating that all teachers pay a New York State United Teachers "agency fee" regardless of their membership status. Supporters say all teachers benefit from pay hikes and perks secured by the union and should subsidize those efforts. In a suit filed Thursday the two teachers who brought the case say (correctly, we might add) that they oppose "NYSUT's political advocacy and collective bargaining activities" and shouldn't have to fund them. Yep.

In Other News...

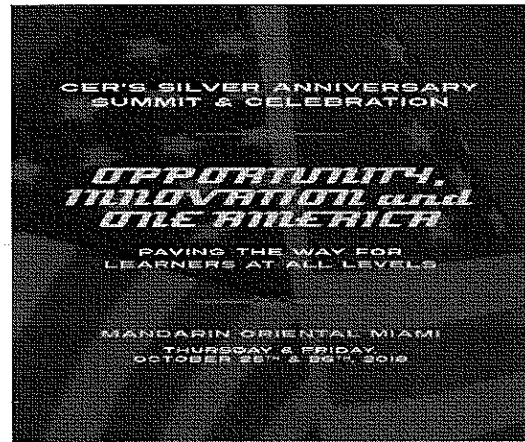
MORE THAN REASONABLE... The Reason Foundation has put out a great piece on school funding. Although titled "Five Recommendations to Solve LAUSD's Looming Fiscal Crisis" its applicable, in parts or in whole, to school funding crises around the country and is worth the read.

SUNSHINE STATE SUCCESS... Former Florida Senate Education Chairman, John Legg, recently summed up Florida's great, new K-12 scholarship program. "... [it] is conceptually reminiscent of the free tutoring programs developed by bipartisan education advocates under the federal No Child Left Behind Act. This scholarship is driven by the educational principle that children must learn to read so they can then read to learn." Notably the program doesn't try to simply thread more money into district elementary reading budgets but instead provides a reading scholarship, which gives parents the decision on how to spend it. And why is that a better approach, Legg was asked: "The parent is the most influential person in the child's life."

A PROGRESSIVE POINT OF VIEW... Also of note this week, a passionate op-ed on educational opportunity for all, titled "Progressive, affluent parents who send their kids to good= schools shouldn't deny others that right." An excerpt: "Simply put, I'm a progressive. So it troubles me deeply to hear self-styled progressives attack educational options that other parents choose for their children. Worse, these attacks on the educational choices that lower-income parents and parents of children with special needs make almost always

come from progressives of higher means. We have a recommendation for that: Check your privilege. I support educational choice for all. Educational options have existed for the wealthy for as long as anyone can remember. What's controversial is when we suggest that those same options should be open to everyone." Amen.

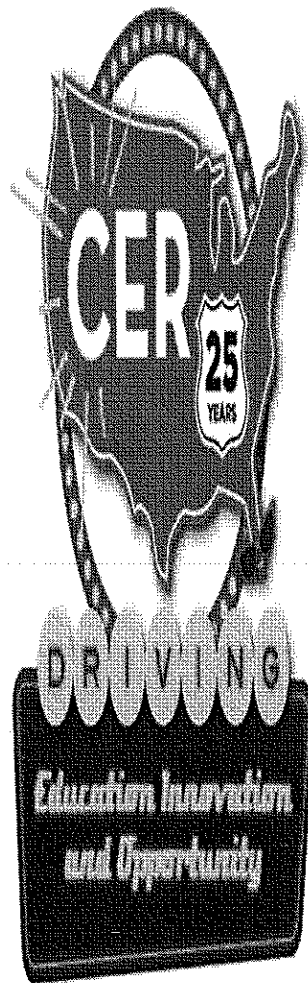
Don't forget! Meet us in Miami Oct. 25-26 for our Silver Anniversary Summit + Celebration. More info at edreform.com.



Friends, Allies & faithful Newswire Readers: We've moved! Our new address is:

1455 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 250, Washington, DC 20004

Founded in 1993, the Center for Education Reform aims to expand educational opportunities that lead to improved economic outcomes for all Americans — particularly our youth — ensuring that conditions are ripe for innovation, freedom and flexibility throughout U.S. education.



The Center for Education Reform
1455 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20004

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From: Ohio Arts Council

Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 10:04 AM

To: Rep07

Subject: June | Free Admission to Blue Star Museums, NEA Grant Recipients & more

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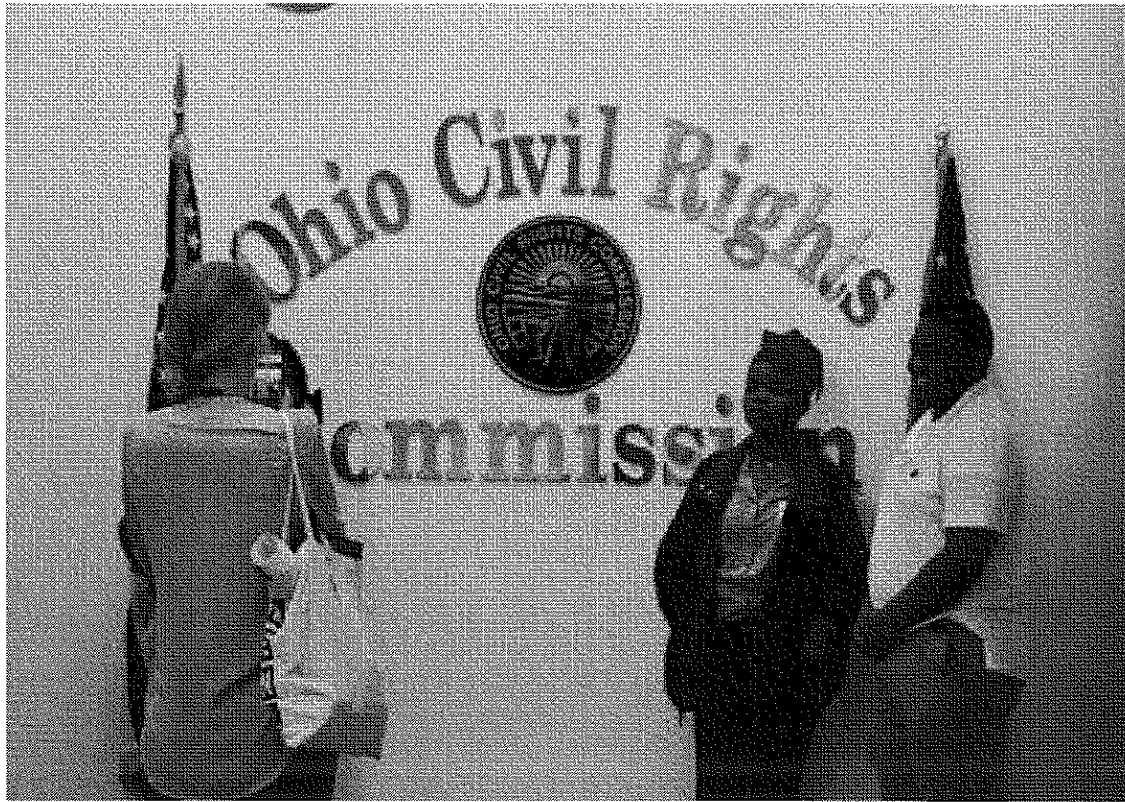
GET READY FOR THE OHIO STATE FAIR!



In this month's Message from the Executive Director, Donna S. Collins reflects on memories from the Ohio State Fair and celebrates the Ohio Arts Council's 20th year of involvement in the annual event.

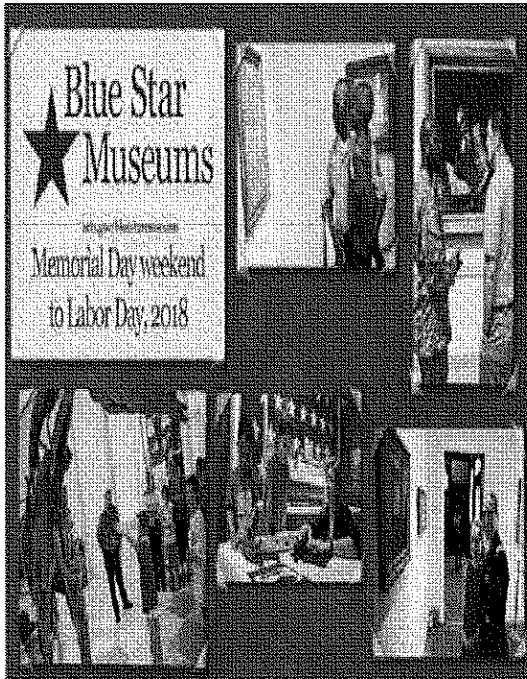
[READ DONNA'S MESSAGE](#)

STUDENTS EXPLORE SELF-EXPRESSION IN OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION YOUTH ART EXHIBITION



Project Snapshot and Envision Project participants learned how to process film and take photos in preparation to display their photography at the Ohio Civil Rights Commission Youth Art Exhibition.

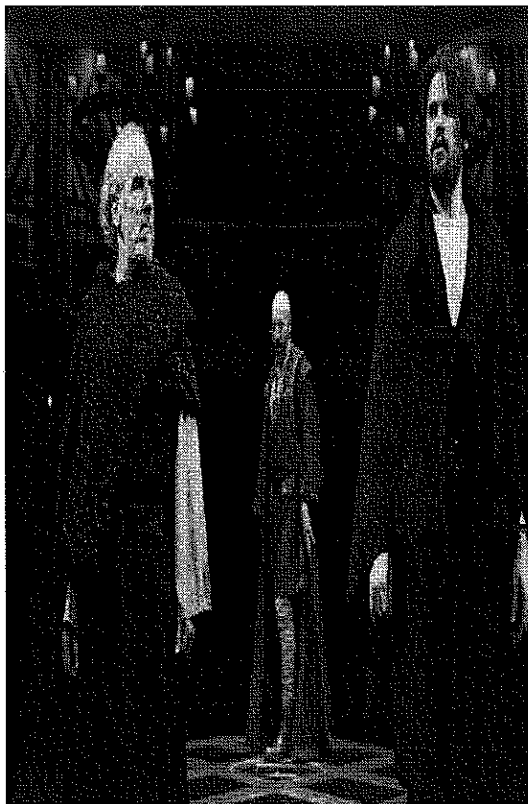
[READ MORE](#)



51 OHIO MUSEUMS OFFER FREE ADMISSION TO MILITARY THIS SUMMER

More than 2,000 museums nationwide are set to offer free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

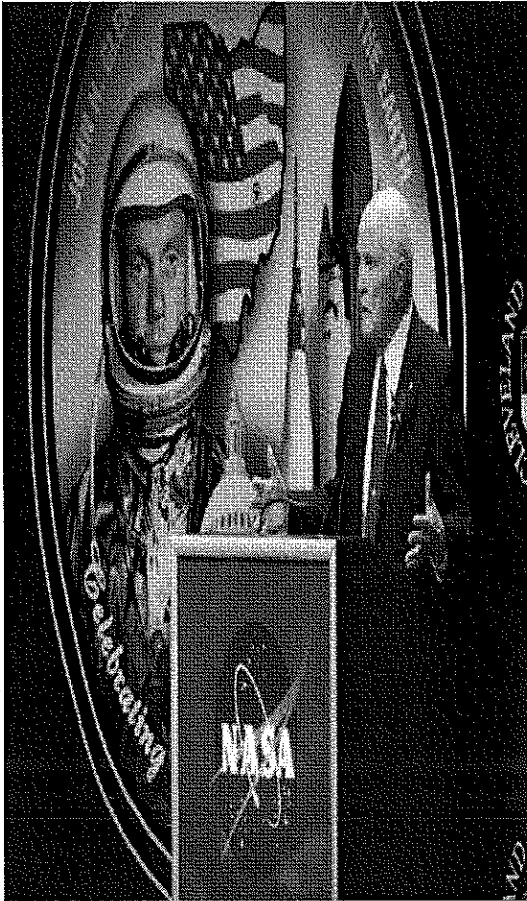
[READ MORE](#)



TWO OHIO COMPANIES RECEIVE GRANTS TO PRODUCE SHAKESPEARE PLAYS AND PROGRAMMING

Cincinnati Shakespeare Company and Cleveland's Great Lakes Theater were awarded Shakespeare in American Communities grants from Arts Midwest and the National Endowment for the Arts.

[READ MORE](#)



MUSKINGUM BAND HONORS JOHN GLENN WITH SPECIALLY COMMISSIONED COMPOSITION

"I want them to listen in a way that just lets them experience that feeling of loyalty and that connection that John and Annie had. I just hope that they feel that sense of pride in this great Ohioan, this great Marine, and this great American."

[READ MORE](#)



OHIO ARTS ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVE NATIONAL LITERATURE GRANTS

The Center for Arts-Inspired Learning and the Massillon Museum have each been awarded a \$15,000 NEA Big Read grant to develop specific programming related to community reading efforts.

[READ MORE](#)

ON VIEW

 **Riffe Gallery**
OHIO ARTS COUNCIL

WOMEN TO WATCH OHIO - 2018

A collaboration with the Ohio Advisory Group of the
National Museum of Women in the Arts

MAY 3 - JULY 7, 2018



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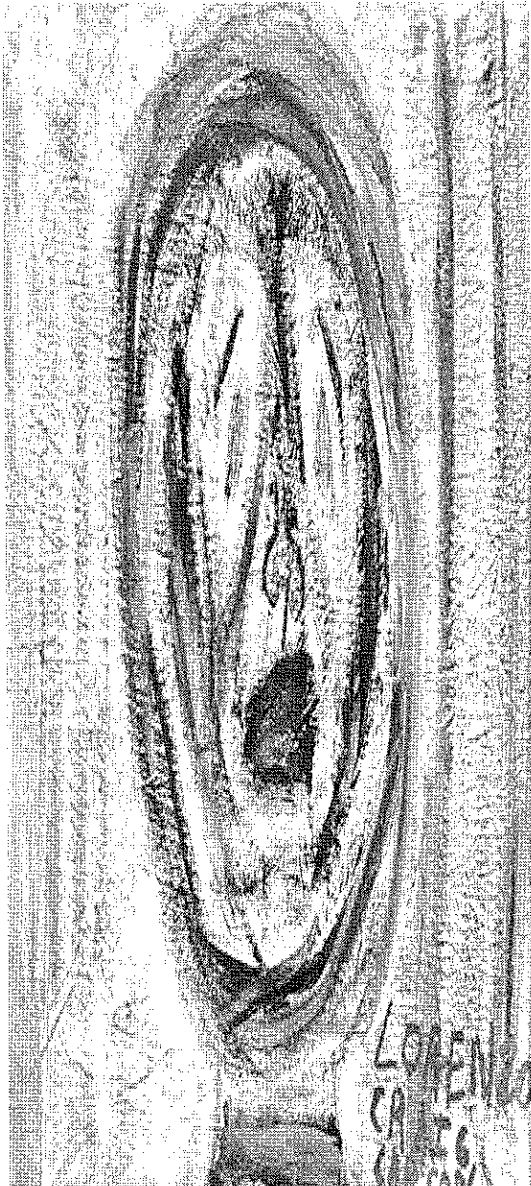


MANIPULATING METAL IN *WOMEN TO WATCH OHIO - 2018*

Women to Watch Ohio - 2018 asks viewers to consider the varied materiality, technical processes, and scale of metalwork. The exhibition presents viewers with an opportunity to pause, look, and learn from an impressive group of artists and to engage with contemporary issues filtered through the lens of an often-gendered material.

[READ MORE](#)

COMING SOON

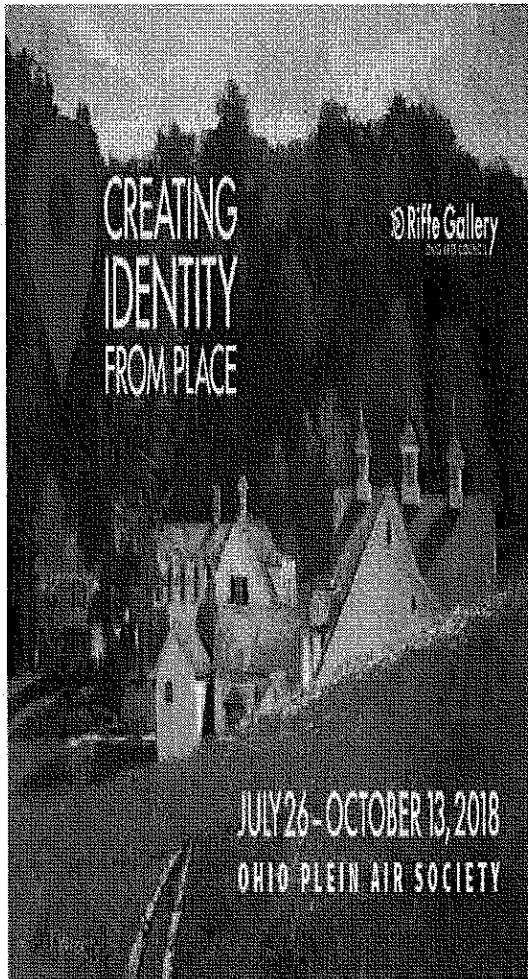


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June 13 - July 11, 2018

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[READ MORE](#)



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[READ MORE](#)

FOR ARTISTS | Grants & Opportunities

SEPTEMBER 1: Individual Excellence Awards Grant Applications Due

The **Individual Excellence Awards** program recognizes outstanding accomplishments by artists in a variety of disciplines. Competitive applications

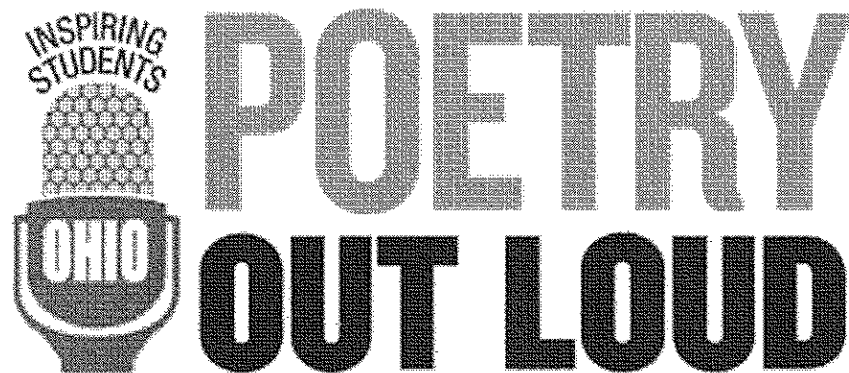
focused on the merit of past artistic work, combined with an open panel review conducted by nationally recognized professionals, ensure that the most exceptional individuals receive funding.

This year, applications are accepted in **crafts; design arts/illustration; interdisciplinary, collaborative & performance art; media arts; photography; visual arts 2D; and visual arts 3D.**

[READ MORE](#)

CONTACT: [Kathy Signorino](#), Artist Programs/ Percent for Art Coordinator

FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS | *Poetry Out Loud*



***Poetry Out Loud* Registration is Now Open**

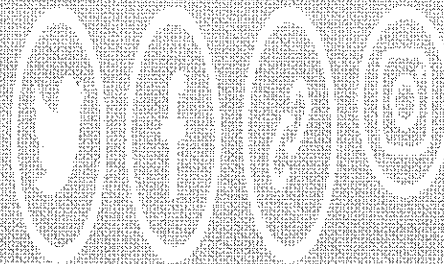
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REGISTER TODAY

CONTACT: Chiquita Mullins Lee, Arts Learning Coordinator

Image credits: 1) Visitors at the 2017 Ohio State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition, Photo by Amanda Etchison; 2) Students whose work is featured in the 2018 Ohio Civil Rights Commission Youth Art Exhibition pose for a photo, Photo by Amanda Etchison; 3) Blue Star Museums graphic, Image courtesy of the National Endowment for the Arts; 4) Great Lakes Theater's performance of Macbeth, Photo courtesy of Great Lakes Theater; 5) Ohio Senator, astronaut, and veteran John Glenn, Photo Credit: NASA; 6) A student participates in a graphic novel creation workshop hosted by the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning, Photo courtesy of the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning; 7) Women to Watch Ohio - 2018 post card, image credit: Carol Boram-Hays, WHOOSH (detail), 2017, steel, duct tape, 114" x 80" x 48"; 8) The artists of Women to Watch Ohio - 2018, Photo courtesy of the Riffe Gallery; 9) Lorenzo Carson, He's God in Columbus, Acrylic on canvas; 10) Robin Roberts, An Evening at Malabar Farm, 2016, Oil on canvas, 15 1/2" x 19 1/2"; 11) Ohio Poetry Out Loud logo



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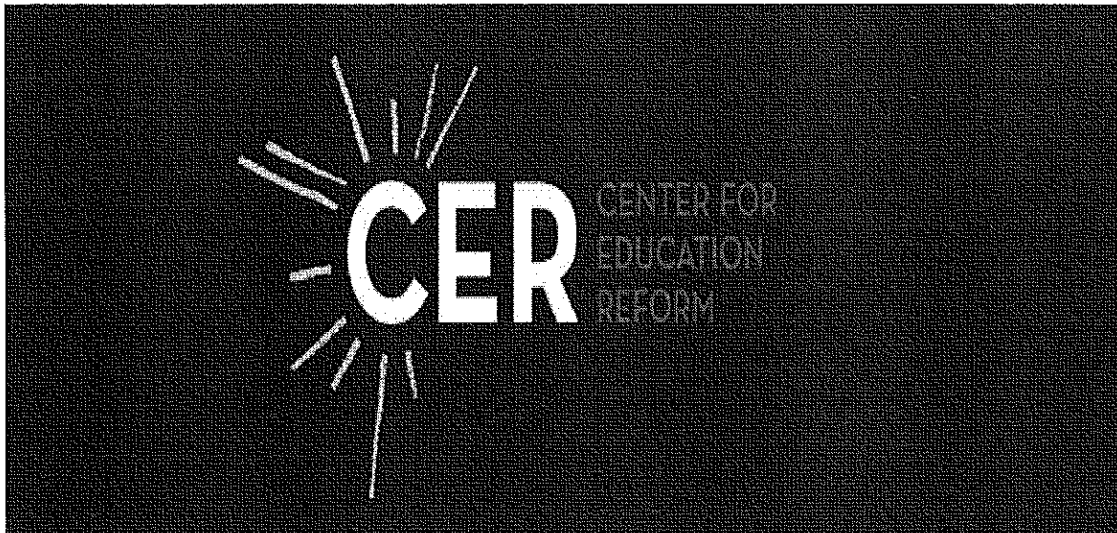
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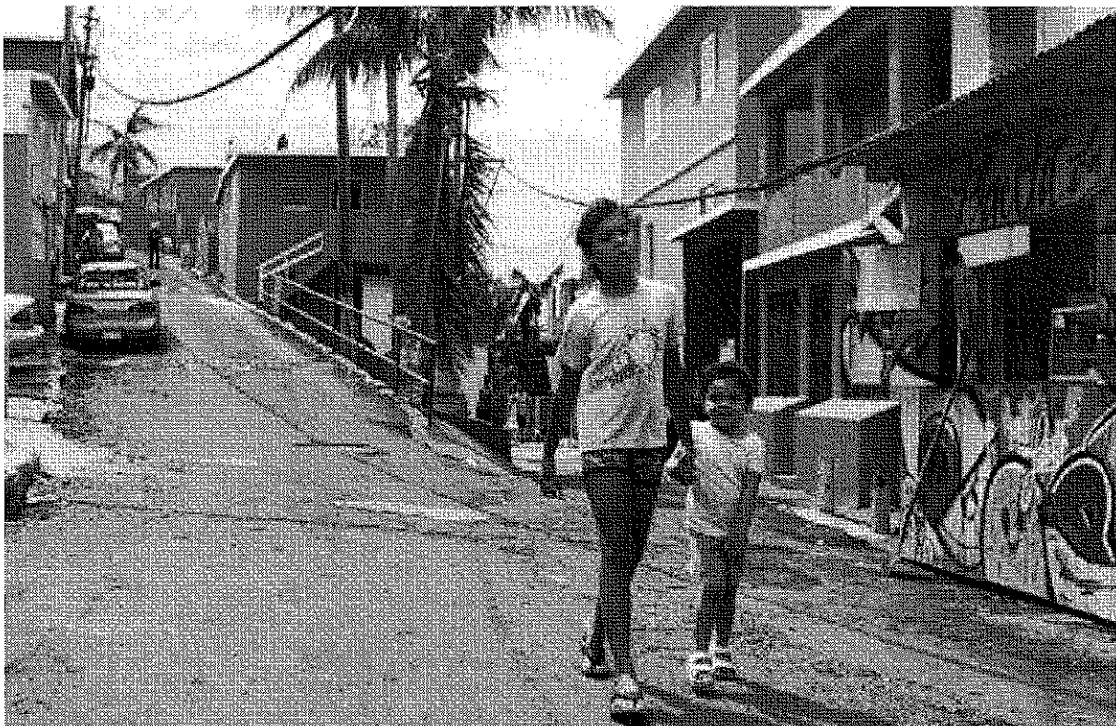
A weekly report on education news and commentary you won't find anywhere else — from the nation's leading voice on education innovation and opportunity.

A NEW HOPE FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS' FREEDOM? The President's nominee to fill the vacancy that Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy will create is Brett Kavanaugh, whose long history of rulings and opinions on education issues may allow for progress and real change for religious schools and school equity: *Does A Justice Kavanaugh Mean That Blaine Amendments Are History?*

A SETBACK IN PUERTO RICO. A frustrating turn of events in Puerto Rico where the hopes and plans to increase educational opportunities and innovations are being held up a judge's ruling that private school scholarships

violate Puerto Rico's Constitution and that only the University of Puerto Rico and Puerto Rico's municipalities can operate "*alianza*" (i.e. charter) schools.

Sadly, this is another case of putting children last when it comes to meeting their educational needs and, with hope, will only be a temporary set-back in delivering Gov. Rosselló's hugely needed, and hugely promising reforms. The good news is that we've seen this movie before, and the flawed decisions of courts from Washington state to Florida are usually based on education powers in constitutions not legislative powers, which in most Constitutions take precedence. [Check out this review](#), for example, from former U.S. Solicitor General Paul Clement, about a similar issue claimed but not litigated in Kentucky. We'll keep you posted.



NEA: THE "NOT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION." Somehow the NEA thought it appropriate to dedicate nearly two-thirds of the resolutions at its annual conference last week to everything BUT education? [What are some of the NEA's priority issues?](#) Here's a sample. Ensuring that Banana Republic doesn't

advertise with the union. Creating a toolkit to press for moratoria on charter school authorizations by bodies other than locally elected school boards. Advocating for lower interest rates and affordable housing programs for educators. And planning at least one action to shut down an immigration detention center, a Customs and order Patrol office, or an Immigration and Customs Enforcement office (and recruiting at least 500 educators to participate in the action who are willing to be arrested and not bailed out of jail for a week!).

AFT ALSO OUT OF TOUCH. As the AFT gears up for its rollicking annual convention and demagoguery fest we thought we'd brief you on the issues they'd be debating this year...that is until we looked at the list of a whopping 91 resolutions from 13 committees that are more appropriate to a meeting of the U.N. General Assembly than they are to addressing the educational needs of America's children and families. To be fair, they do have an "Educational Issues Committee" but things go sideways fast when we get to the committees on Healthcare, Human Rights, International Relations, Labor and the Economy, Political Action ("Resolution No. 53 'Rev It Up:' Register, Educate, Vote!") and Organizing and Collective Bargaining. Suffice it to say they will be discussing a lot of things, most of which have little or nothing to do with educating children. If you are so inclined, you can read every word of every resolution [here](#).

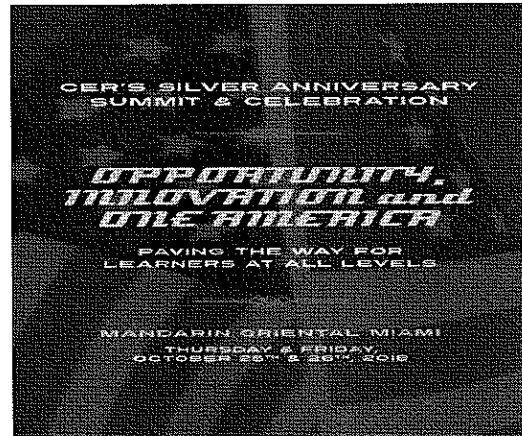
NOTE TO UNIONS: You're supposed to be looking for ways to improve your standing after Janus not get farther away from the mission upon which you were founded.

HEARING IT DIRECTLY FROM MARK JANUS. Along with many of our most respected colleagues, we've been glued to the Janus v. AFSCME litigation proceedings since the beginning. We've [covered](#), [interviewed](#) and reported on the subject. But nothing compares to hearing it from the horse's mouth. [Here's](#) Mark Janus explaining his "why" after the historic decision.

TO NBC: NOT TO SAY, 'WE TOLD YOU SO' BUT... The Grade, by Alexander Russo, offers up a great article over the irresponsibly story alleging charter schools are creating "white flight" from traditional public schools. The contention is absurd, and we said so, but the Grade goes even further. A very brief synopsis of its critique: *"...unfortunately, the [NBC/Hechinger] piece fails badly at its larger attempt, which is to assert that this kind of charter school is a significant problem nationally. Despite all efforts to make it seem otherwise, the data presented in the story do not support the claim that segregated white charters are a big problem."* Read the full article here.

COMPETITION. Pennsylvania's Bensalem school district hired a consultant to tell them why so many families were choosing charter schools over district schools. The consultant's explanation: with charter schools as an option for families, districts must compete for students, which means they have to improve in areas where they are lacking – be that in performance or programs or in working with parents. "Of course," the article concludes correctly, "competition is what the charter school law was supposed to produce — because competition drives excellence." = 2

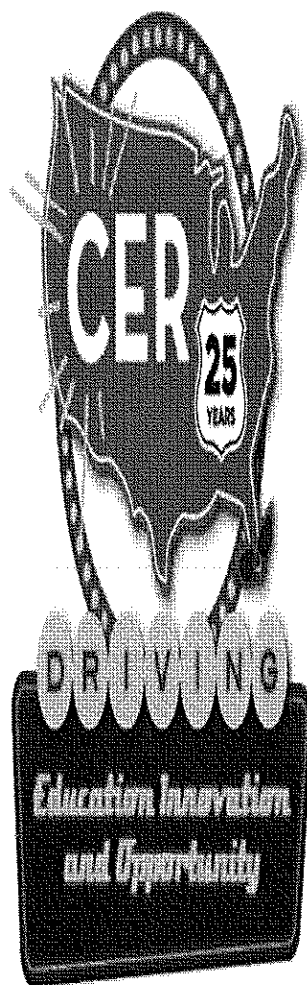
THE ROAD TO INNOVATION IS PAVED WITH SILVER... This week we are pleased to announce the addition of Arizona State University as a partner in CER's Silver Anniversary Summit. We're grateful for the pathbreaking leadership of ASU and it's visionary president Michael Crow in their myriad endeavors. Start your engines and make your way to Miami on October 26th! Registration opens this week!



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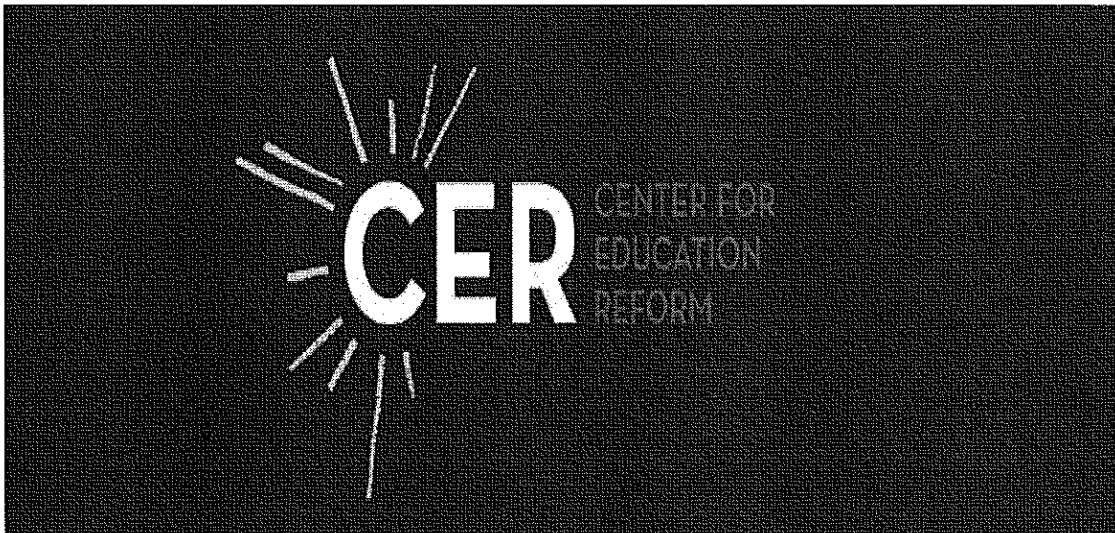
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POLITICS AS USUAL. As if on cue to lend credence to the wisdom of the Supreme Court's *Janus v. AFSCME* decision (which frees individuals from being forced to fund unions they don't support) last week's AFT annual meeting more closely resembled the quadrennial national party conventions than a gathering of teachers devoted to education and learning. Not only was the AFT's laundry list of resolutions laced with criticism of the current administration, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and current Senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders all showed up to rally the troops and lead the charge toward political victory in November and beyond!!! Also joining in the AFT's pep rally and cheerleading tryouts were noted labor bosses, Lee .

Saunders (AFSCME), Lily Eskelsen-Garcia, (NEA), and Mary Kay Henry (SEIU). Notably absent – any talk of meaningful reform of schools and everyone whose ideas, opinions, or political leanings don't conform to the union leaders' views of America.

THE WRONG RESPONSE. Of course much of the AFT's focus was on the biggest issue of concern to parents and children across the country: the impact of Janus on the union! Leading the way in the torches-and-pitchforks rally was AFT president Randi Weingarten who was= on a tear orating, among other things, about how "They [the infamous and dangerous "they"] have attacked us and perverted and weaponized the First Amendment, the freedom of speech in a way that no one recognizes."

SCHOOLYARD SCUFFLE. There's never been any love lost between Nevada's competing teachers unions – Clark County Education Association (CCEA) and the new National Education Association of Southern Nevada (NEA-SN) – but now their relationship has devolved into a playground hair-pulling affair complete with name-calling and fit-throwing. The problem comes down to who's taking members away from whom and is best explained by an impartial observer who says it's all about money. "I hate to be so crass to say it that way, but if you lose 10,000 members that's money that's gone." Offers another observer: "The only word that comes to my mind is incompetency." Oh well. If nothing else, at least the unions' priorities are nicely aligned with their national counterparts.

A BIG CHANGE IN THE BIG EASY. After hurricane Katrina back in 2005 Louisiana abolished its old, failing, school system in favor of a system of charter schools. So how has it worked out? As *The New York Times* reports "...academic progress has been remarkable. Performance on every kind of standardized test has surged." A caution is in order, however. The Time's piece was sparked by the state returning schools to "local control" – to the Orleans Parish School Board, for example which has historically opposed giving any power to schools or autonomy to individuals – and threatens to be a step

toward a return to the structure, and mindset, that doomed New Orleans students to violent and chronically failing schools before Katrina.

NOW THERE'S A THOUGHT. A well-reasoned piece out of New Mexico where an op-ed – "Bureaucracy stifles innovation at NM schools" – points to the need for an education system that provides "innovative solutions that fit local needs? 6we should be asking, what does your local community need from its graduates and what experiences will prepare them for the future? Or, how can we give students real-life internship experiences that teach students the skills they need to be prepared in our ever-changing workforce?" Here, here!

THOSE DARN PARENTS. It won't come as a shock to learn that as enrollment in charter schools in North Carolina rises, and attendance in the state's traditional public schools falls – it's down, for the third straight year, to 81 percent and falling fast – the status quo sees a conspiracy afoot to "dismantle public schools." But when you open the gates and people can leave = 2 and they do – it says something about the existing offerings. Advocates of traditional public school shouldn't complain but figure out how to keep students without calling parents undemocratic or accusing them of trying to dismantle the public schools simply because they their kids educated to their own needs.

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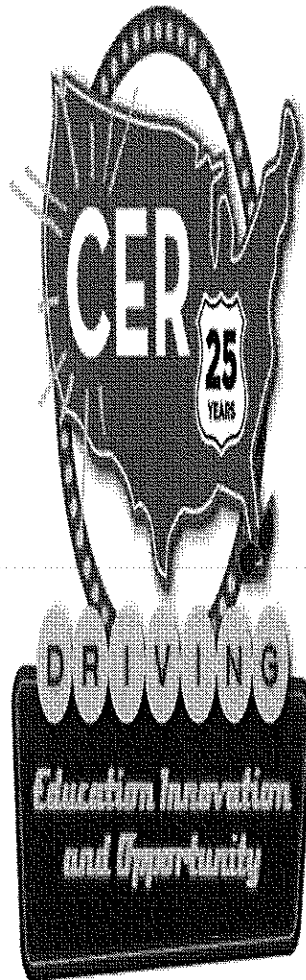
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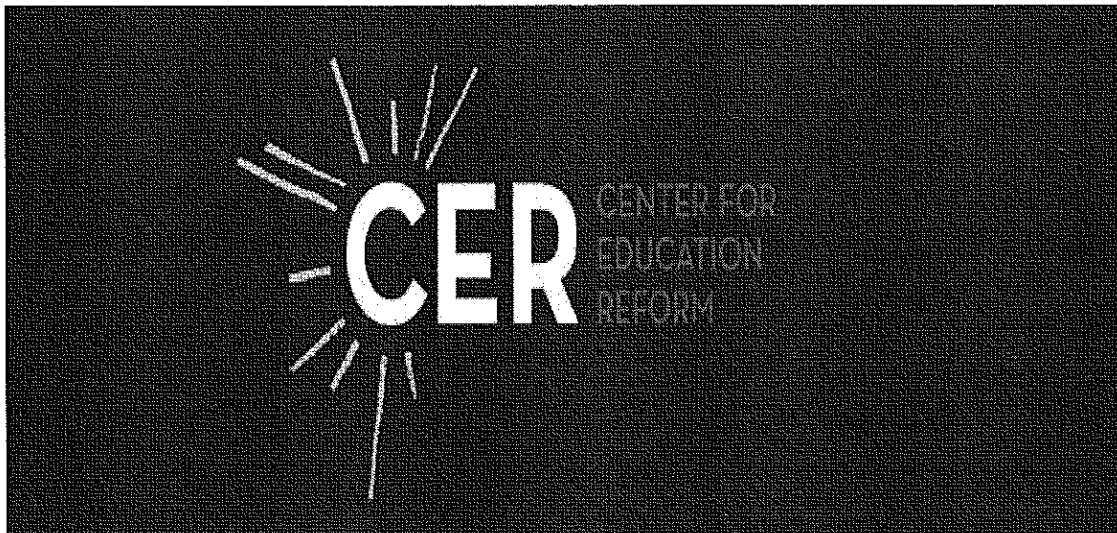


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JUST THE FACTS...OR NOT. A NY Times op-ed, *"A Plea for a Fact-Based Debate About Charter Schools,"* would appear to make a compelling case for reasoned discussion on charter schools but there are some glaring holes in the piece that make it less reasonable than it seems. For example, there is no mention of the value of charters as drivers of innovation, nor does it point out the options and opportunities charters offer parents and children. Then there's this blanket, off-base assessment: "[Charter] schools have their downsides...disciplinary policies can be severe...The schools also rely on hard-working, moderately paid young teachers, many of whom can't make a career

of the work." We're all for a fact-based debate, but it first requires that one stick to the facts.

POLITICAL MACHINACTIONS IN AZ. An op-ed, titled "*School choice advocates shouldn't assume a favorable political climate in Arizona. There are some ill winds blowing*" provides a valuable assessment of the political goings-on in the Grand Canyon State. The state's voucher program faces a dilemma as a ballot issue – which has the program losing either way – and a push to get rid of the procurement exemption for charter schools – which is one of the driving forces behind the hugely successful Arizona charter movement – is also in jeopardy. Both are worrisome developments and serve as cautionary tales for education reformers everywhere.

AND ANOTHER OPINION OF NOTE. The headline from the Las Vegas Review-Journal says it all, or at least most of it: "To attract better teachers to low-performing schools, reform union pay structure." Another on-point observation from the commentary: "...once again, the problem can be traced to the one-size-fits-all socialized pay structure that has long dominated teacher compensation thanks to union politics." As we often say in these cases, "Amen."

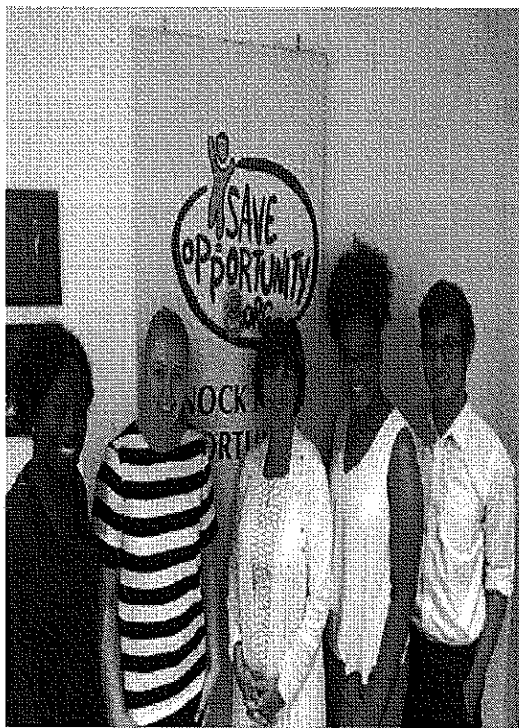
THIS JUST IN. "NEA Budget Cuts Don't Include Executives' Salaries."
Need we say more?

HOW TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR. A well-crafted, succinct, to-the-point letter to the Seattle Times from local resident Morton Kondrake. "*Charter schools: Good for Washington.*"

IT JUST NEVER ENDS. Turns out they're stacking the deck against charter schools in the City of Brotherly Love. Apparently, although not surprisingly, the Philly school district is using its new Charter School Performance Framework to measure charter school quality, while completely ignoring the same standards

when assessing the performance of district-operated public schools.
Outrageous.

IN A MORE COOPERATIVE VEIN. The House Committee on Education and the Workforce is hosting a bipartisan innovation forum and showcase tomorrow on Capitol Hill. The event will highlight the work of 24 innovators who are running education and workforce development programs in their communities and will reflect a key element of CER's mission: bringing innovation and opportunity to America's education system. Tomorrow beginning at 10:00 a.m., 2175 Rayburn House Office Building with the showcase in the Rayburn Foyer.



INTERN AT CER. Are you ready to transform U.S. education? Do you want to gain knowledge about education policy and put that into practice to create better education opportunities for all children? Do you have a knack for research and strong writing and communication skills? If so you might be a great fit to intern at CER! [Learn more and apply here.](#)

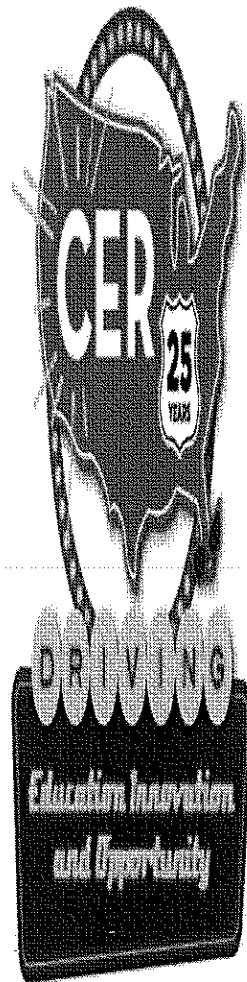
Don't forget! Meet us in Miami Oct. 25-26 for our Silver Anniversary Summit + Celebration. More info at edreform.com.

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